

CLAIMS

1. (original) An Arterivirus having at least some of its original arteriviral nucleic acid encoding ORF-7 deleted.
2. (original) A replicon according to claim 1 capable of *in vivo* RNA replication.
3. (previously presented) A replicon according to claim 2, further comprising a nucleic acid derived from at least one heterologous micro-organism.
4. (previously presented) A replicon according to claim 1, wherein said replicon comprises an RNA transcript of an infectious cDNA.
5. (previously presented) A replicon according to claim 1, wherein said replicon comprises a functional kissing loop interaction.
6. (previously presented) A replicon according to claim 1, wherein said arteriviral nucleic acid encoding ORF-7 produces a C-terminally truncated ORF-7 polypeptide.
7. (original) A replicon according to claim 6 wherein said truncation does not effect the production of viable virus.
8. (previously presented) A replicon according to claim wherein said Arterivirus comprises a porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV).
9. (original) A replicon according to claim 8 comprising a nucleic acid modification leading to an at most 6 amino acid truncation of ORF-7.

10. (original) A replicon according to claim 8 comprising a nucleic acid modification of a 34-nucleotided stretch of ORF-7 from position 14653-14686 and a nucleic acid modification of the 3'-UTR from position 14996-15034.

11. (previously presented) A replicon according to claim 3, wherein said heterologous micro-organism comprises a pathogen.

12. (original) A replicon according to claim 11 wherein said pathogen is a virus.

13. (withdrawn) A method of using a replicon according to of claim 2 to obtain a vaccine.

14–15 (canceled)

16. (withdrawn) A vaccine comprising: an Arterivirus nucleic acid, wherein said Arterivirus nucleic acid comprises a functional kissing loop interaction.

17. (withdrawn) The vaccine of claim 15, further comprising a deletion in an ORF-7 polypeptide.

18. (withdrawn) A method of vaccinating an animal, the method comprising: administering a vaccine according to claim 15 to an animal.

19. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the animal is a swine.